A FEW TICKETS FROM TIJE MATRI-MONIAL LOTTE AY.

"De you not know that I am a woman? What I think I must speak." -As You Like It.

"Take my advice, my boy," an elderly widower, an old friend of mine, used to say to his son, "and don't marry in a hurry, or with your eyes shut. Choose a girl who can stitch with her needle and make a pudding. None of your trisky fal-lals and nonsense! Your mother made the only pastry which didn't give me the heartburn, and she wasn't above her kitchen or her work-basket." Capital advice, no doubt, but "Hest plus aise d'etre sage pour les autres que de Fetre pour soi-meme," and it is in nowise inconsistent with weak human nature that so knowing an old gentleman should, when on the verge of seventy, take for his second wife a young "frisky fal-lal" of two-and-twenty, with a pretty face and a long bead, who had no intention, in selling herself to her grandtather, of making his puddings or of mending his linen.

The son, too, on the principle that practice is better than precept, did as foollsuly as his elderly progenitor. He also shortly alterwards took a ticket for himself in the matrimonisi lottery, and drew a handsome, fast, and not over-young lady, with no money, whose principal attractions seem to have been a capability of playing coquettes and other lively characters in private theatricals as well as any actress on the stage, and the power and nerve to break in a horse with any groom going. These instances occurred to me while turning over "Coelebs in Search of a Wi'e," by the venerable Hannah More, which I found in the library of a country house on one of those wet September days we have been lately pleased with. As long as femule heauty, fascination, and wily eleverness exist, it is useless to preach ve rules to men on the important business

of choosing a wife. A lovely face, a periect figure, the many and nameless snares of a clever woman's tact and flattery, will in a moment cast to the winds the divine eloquence of a Taylor, or the persuasive elegance of an Addison or a Steele. Experience indeed teaches us that no true opinion or judgment can be formed beforehand on the Au apparently imprudent, hasty, and unsuitable match has often turned so well, and the slow, well-considered, carefully adjusted anion has after all brought with it so much unhappiness and disappointment, that one is tempted to leave the matter to fate, and send the match-making fraternity to Coven-try. The two marriages I have mentioned have not certainly been very great successes, but they have not turned out so badly as their friends charitably prognosticated. Neither the frieky fal-lal nor the talented amateur have yet eloped from their respective lords, nor up to the present time have they afforded more food than the rest of their acquaintence for the than the rest of their acquaintance for the amusement and delight of the scandal-loving part of the community. In some old play or other a fair lady asks a gentleman, much after the lashion of Mr. Lilly-

vick when he requests of Nicholas Nickieby his opinion of the French language-'What think you of marriage!" The gentle-

man answers:"I take't as those that deny purgatory. It locally contains a heaven or hell: there's no

third place in't! I cannot say I agree with this gentleman. I think there is a "third place in't"—not perfect happiness, not utter misery, but something between the two, which custom and necessity make tolerably endorable. No one could consider a union between infirm old age and joyous youth as a counterpart of heaven, yet experi-ence shows us it is not always the direct con-trary. My old friend has certainly to spend more time now in the smoky metropolis than suits either his taste or his liver—he has to write large cheques for Mcsdames Elise, Brown and others-those scandalous impositious, as he used to call them. He shivers in dress garments and elastic alry step, make him parcon all as he gazes, and he feels humbly grateful to her for merely being wifn him and bearing his name. And she, his young but shrewd partner, seems also to pass her days contentedly enough, hiding with all her sex's skill her secret weariness, her covert hopes, and her natural repugnance to her

lator and a gambier, and has already made a large inroad on his capital. Who, in such a case, can tell how soon or how terribly the whole fabric of their domestic happiness, if happiness it can be called, may be blown to oftener than he likes, and has to submit to having his prosy thoughts and ancient remin-isences pool-pooled with much feminine and contemptuous indifference—but be is an old man, and he dotes. That fresh bloom on his wife's fair cheek, that you thful rounded form downfall is generally sudden and speedy. Many aged spouse. She has a panacen for her woes from which she gains courage and patience to support them. It is that Future, into which she gazes so often and so eagerly, and in which she sees pictured a young and lovely widow with a large jointure and a most welcome liberty. So she struggles not with the matrimonial noose but waits and waits as only a woman and such a woman can. We will now this to the son and the daughter in-law, the talented amateur, and the daughter in-law, the latented amateur, and though they present a more wholesome sight to our moral vision, yet I doubt if to our outward eyes there is to be seen as much apparent content and calm in their menage as in the one I have just been speaking of. There are many reasons for this—one is their poverty. Their pretty step-mamma mairied her "old man" for his money, and took good care that he should not encourage his idle son in his extrava-gance by increasing his bachelor allow-ance, "Young men should work—as you did, dear," she would say, patting her lord's withered check, after making him sign a large cheque for her milliner, "it makes them self-reliant. If you impoverish yourself to increase his allowance, he will never do anything at the Bar, and will never be anything better than a pensioner on his father's bounty." She knew very well he had been foolishly indulged and brought up in idle, wilful ways. She knew that his profession, so called, was little more than playing whist or ecarte in his chambers with other young barristers as briefless as himpossessed a boyine temperament which could not be disturbed by the trials and woes of others. So the young pair have to fight their battle in the best way they can, which way, perhaps, is not a very wise one. They are too poor to enjoy much society; and while he grouns gloomily over his pipe about his duns, and his father's "cursed folly in marrying that double-tongued hussy," she sits silent, puckering her handsome brow, and pondering sorrowfully on the down-fall of all her little hopes and schemes. For, indeed, in marrying her boy-lover, she was actuated principally by one motive. Her parents had begun to be disagreeable about her passion for acting, the one called it expensive, the other indecorous, and as it was the only thing she really loved, she thought it she were married, particularly to one who she keep married, particularly to one who she knew shared her theatrical tastes, she should be able to gratity her fancy to any extent, even to appearing in the piquant role of a page or a Capid. And now she finds that poverty takes the place of her parents, and tabooes the exercise of her graceful talent. Her only remedy against despair is an insane and secret hope that their affairs may get so bad as to induce her husband to allow her to exercise her histrionic ability for their joint benefit, and sinking the amateur in the artist, have the bliss of seeing her name posted in large letters all over London. "Either this," she says to herself, "or his father's death

ing their disappointment in their own hearts; neither is of a "knagging" disposition, and are "Jointly submitting to endure That evil which admits no cure "

-nothing else can save us from ruin." All this sounds very like purgatory; but I daresay, in the end this will turn out an average happy

Aircady they feel the necessity of hid-

Custom, mutual interests, family ries, and maybe, a lucky windfall to pay their debts, will make of them a tolerably contented couple, and, perhaps, even give cause for Mrs. Grundy's saying, in mellifluous accents, "Who would have thought that hasty match would have turned out so well!"

But do those marriages in which the world delights always bring peace and contentment to the proper pair? Everything is, of course, and by line and rule. He is the most correct

of bachelors, and she the most proper of spinsters. He is a man who never forgets hum-selt, and has a high sense of his own value frounded on nothing. At school he was never flogged, and never got a prize, and yet never disgraced himself by his stupidity. At college, he was the pet of the dean for his regular attendance to chapel, and gates, and lectures. He avoided boating and husting-men, and was not to be found at wines, but used to entertain a select party of similar tastes and disposition with the gentle stimulants of gluger-wine, tea, and jam. You may search in vain for his name in the honor lists, but he was never for a term in danger of being plucked. She is a young woman, also with an excellent opinion of herself, which, however, she displays more to women than to men, being one of those delightful creatures who believe faithfully in the superiors. riority of the other sex. They are, indeed, a periectly well-matched pair. He has a well-paid Government appointment, and she a fortune of thirty thousand pounds. They are both neat and rather old-fashioned in their ways: neat and rather old-fashioned in their ways: they can each warble faintly and dismally at the plane. To them, Martin Farquhar Tupper is the greatest of fiving poets, and both being of pleiseian origin, have the intensest reverence for a real live lord. Mrs. Grundy says, "Can anything be more satisfactory? I shall certainly wear my new velvet and my point d'Alencon at their wedding." This wedding is of course a correct and gloomy affair.

No one, not even the parson, ventures on

in the serious presence of the bride and bride-groom. All is en regle, and everything bought at the proper shops. There are plenty of rich presents, and only one poor relation. The bridepresents, and only one poor relation. The bride-groom presents his bride, previous to her quit-ting her mother's root, with a little book, en-titled "A Whisper to a Newly-Married Pair." "Let us both," he says, with much airy grace and, manner, "my dear Lucratia, give heed to the nurmars of this little friend," And so they begin their married life together without any apparent drawback. Everything goes very smoothly, and their little dunners in their house in Belgravia, at which, however, there never i by the aristocratic Mrs. Grundy "to be very select, and quite comme il faut." But I am a person of an ill-regulated mind, and cannot help wondering how any woman can live with such a man without ending his career, or her own, with "a bare bodkin," These admonitions on the most tri-fling subjects, given with so much lotty superionity, those praises drawled out in that self-satisfied tone, would in a short time, if I were the recipient of them, break my spirit, and turn my hair grey. But she has been so well brought up, and behaves that in every case the first duty of a wife is obedience. To please her lord and master she wears her dress short, though she is of a stout round figure, perches the ugly nets he chooses for her over her nose, performs all her domestic duties at the exact hours he has noted down in her day-book; resists the healthy cravings of a rather large appetite and dines off the wing of a chicken when sh could gladly and easily despatch the whole lowl; dresses her little son like a miniature man, and subdues her voice to the low sepulchral tones which he has pronounced to be alone suitable to a truly correct and feminine nature. He is very strict, too, about her friends and acquaintances—one was cut because her bonnet strings were not tied evenly, and another for hear forms out of the property of the course for her forms forms for the course forms for her forms forms for the course forms for her forms for her forms forms for her forms forms for her forms for her forms forms for her forms forms for her forms forms for her forms forms for her forms forms for her forms for her forms for her forms for her forms forms for her forms forms for her forms for her forms for her forms for her forms forms for her forms forms for her forms forms for her forms fo another for being found by them in a merning call alone in the drawing-room with the gentle-man to whom she was engaged; but these were was engaged; out these were very old friends of his wite, and rumor connected them with trade. Had they been the daughters of a peer, or even a baronet, they might have violated the laws of cirquette and propriety with impunity. Whether, however, this is a state of peace and contentment is to me a question. There is a dark as well as a bright side to all mundane affairs, and it is whispered abroad that this most correct of gentlemen has a vice which his wife and fortune has given him

It must not be thought from these instances that I am advocating the merits of marrying in haste over those of the slow and sure process: I only say, what many have said before, that the whole affair is a lottery, in which success as often attends the bold and desperate player as him who draws his lot by line and rule guided by all the laws of chance and propriety.

When a hasty match turns out badly,

the power of gratifying. He is at heart a specu-

of my time must remember the Cwas a young man, and apparently rich; he had the neatest of broughams, and the best-shaped horses; and he gave little dinners, where the turtle was dearer, the champagne drier, and the wit brighter, than even now await the happy man who is bidden to feast with our modern Lucullus and most honored of wine merchants. Indeed, all his appointments, habits, and tastes were those of a man possessed of wealth and of a luxurious nature. He fell in love with and married a very lovely girl, sgainst the wishes of her parents, who were worldly people, and knew that in her in-fatuation for this little fat man, as they called him, their daughter had forietted a very good chance of wearing a coronet. In some respects, perhaps, the marriage was a singular one, for perhaps, the marriage was a singular one, for he was plain and unromantic in appearance, and she was as fair as Eve herself (I take my idea of our first mother from Milton's descrip-tion, and utterly repudiate the notion of her having the skin of the Ethiop). But this little fat man, so perfectly dressed and per-fumed, and who always looked as if he had just stepped out of a bandbox, possessed a charm often resistless with women, and frequently denied to the Apollos and Adonises of society. He had a silver tongue and the most fas-cinating manners, and under these powerful influences his defects of face and figure were forgotten. He was supposed to be rich, and was certainly a gentleman, but the sources of his income were somewhat of a mystery, and as his marriage was very like an elopement, his wife's parents had no chance of making inquiries respecting his circumstances, or of ensuring a proper settlement for their imprudent child. At first all was brilliant and pleasant, and they began their career as people of fashion and posi-tion. Their house was in the most expensive and select part of the town, and the fair bride had her diamonds, opera-box, carriages, and country villa, much in the same way as she would have done had she married the old but amorous earl. All this, however, lasted but for

son the crash came. The poor wife had to rush from her splendid dwelling to the security of her father's house, the husband, in urgent haste and humiliating secresy, made the best of his way to the shelter-ing shores of Boulogne, and the servants, with much angry grumbling, left the invaded house, with the exception of the black porter, who was tound lying prone in the hall, weeping and howling with the persistency of a heathen and a nigger. Everything, even to the gold coronet head-dress of the lady, was seized by the clamorous creditors, and the ruin was complete and entire. The wife, with her child, joined her husband abroad, and I have never heard of them since. The whole affair was but a nine days' wonder, and was soon forgotten and buried with the past. With it, for the present, I end my gloomy experiences of matrimonial miseries. I would fain have shown a brighter side of the picture, but, in the words of the French cynic, "Il en est de veritable amour comme de d'apparition des esprits: tout le monde en ont parte, mais peu de gens en ont [vu."-From Temple Bar for December, 1866.

two short years. At the end of the second sea-

-Max Strakosch's opera troupe is in Indianapolis, but the people there do not appreciate it, and Saturday last the audience was so small that the manager rang down the curtain at about the middle of a performance of *Crispino*, much to the disgust of a few who had bought tickets, and wanted their money's worth.

-The Hon. Alexander H. Stephens is engaged on a work to be called "The History of the War between the States," and arrangements have already been entered into for its publication. WATCHES, JEWELRY ETC.

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